Reduction of Telephone Registration Fee

†1257. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the occasion of Deepawali, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi has reduced the telephone registration amount from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 1500/-;

(b) if so, the number of registrations as on 30th November, 1999; and

(c) the objective of starting this facility and by when these registered persons will be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the number of registrations as on 30th November, 1999 is 1,03,618.

(c) the objective is to stimulate demand of new telephones in MTNL, Delhi. Efforts are a foot to provide telephones to most of the registrants by March, 2000.

Opening of new Post Office in villages of Himachal Pradesh

†1258. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such villages in Himachal Pradesh where no Post Office facilities are available within the distance of four to five kilometres;

(b) whether the matter is under consideration of Government; and

(c) if so, the names of the villages where Govemment propose to open Post Offices and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The names of villages in Himachal Pradesh where no post office exists within the

†'Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.